

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2019-01-04 14:37:13
Observer's Name	David Eberly
E-mail	david.eberly@gmail.com
Phone	6102995648
Observer's Address	112 South Princeton Avenue Swarthmore PA 19081 United States
Names of additional observers	none
Species (Common Name)	Mississippi Kite
Species (Scientific Name)	Ictinia mississippiensis
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	juvenile
Observation Date and Time	09-15-2018 2:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48524785
County	Delaware
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Swarthmore
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	112 S. Princeton Ave, Swarthmore (my home)
GPS coordinates of sighting	39.9009705,-75.3468857
Habitat	suburban residential
Distance to bird	200'+
Viewing conditions	clear day
Optical equipment used	Leica Ultravid 10x42, Nikon D7000 camera with Sigma 120-400 lens

Description

I was hawk watching in my yard facing NE and the bird came from my back gliding due north. Initial impression was a funny looking vulture. As it was gliding away from me most of the observation was through the camera lens. I caught glimpses of white on the belly, outer underwing & head while photographing. The finer details were gleaned from the photos. All views were distant & pretty high. Photos were take with lens at 400 mm & cropped.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

The bird was gliding straight & due north. It did brake once as if hunting. I never had a direct overhead view. All were of the bird flying away

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

I did not think the underwing pattern was consistent with buteo. I was struck by the contrast between the whitish primaries & dark trailing secondaries on the underwing. The long pointed wings seemed consistent only with Swainson's but underwing pattern didn't seem right for Swainson's

When shadowing& exposure are adjusted in the photo the white on belly & head that I saw through the camera lens is somewhat visible.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Sighting was initially accepted for ebird by Al Guarente but rejected on photo review. Juv broadwing hawk was suggested by a photo reviewer. I'm not certain because I don't see the contrast between white primaries & dark secondaries that I see on my bird on the underwing in any BW images. The wings look too long and narrow for BW to me. One observer of my photos suggested the image with the sharply twisted head & the other with the braking of the glide with alulae might be more consistent with an acrobatic kite.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

No. Wing shape & apparent tail length/shape are problematic but all views are of a bird flying away from me.

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

[MIKI-yard-10.jpg](#)



[MIKI-yard-11.jpg](#)



[MKI-yard-12.jpg](#)



[MIKI-yard-2.jpg](#)



[MIKI-yard-3.jpg](#)



[MIKI-yard-4.jpg](#)



[MIKI-yard-5.jpg](#)



[MIKI-yard-6.jpg](#)



[MIKI-yard-7.jpg](#)



[MIKI-yard-8.jpg](#)



[MIKI-yard-9.jpg](#)



[MIKI-yard_cropped only-10.jpg](#)



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[MIKI-yard_cropped only-4.jpg](#)



[MIKI-yard_cropped only-9.jpg](#)

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